THURLSTONE

URBAN DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health's Report

FOR 1893.

JOHN WOOD, PRINTER, PENISTONE.

Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1893.

To the Chairman and Members of the Thurlstone Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,

There have been 56 deaths in the district during the past year. Fourteen of these have occurred in the Workhouse, three, however of which were persons belonging to the Thurlstone district. Excluding those dying in the Workhouse belonging to other districts, gives a total of 45 deaths for the year, against 44 which took place in the previous year. The Death Rate for the year is 16·4 per 1000 of the population.

The number of Births during the year has been 95, which gives a Birth Rate of 34·3 per 1000 of the population, against 33·2 per 1000 in the previous year.

There have been only three deaths in the district during the year from Zymotic Disease, viz., one from Influenza, one from Whooping Cough, and one from Erysipelas following vaccination. The death from Erysipelas following vaccination was enquired into by order of the Commission on Vaccination by Dr. Luff, of London, who considered the Erysipelas due to the insanitary conditions surrounding the house where the child lived and not to any fault of the vaccination.

The other Deaths in the district included fourteen from Lung Complaints, twelve in children under one year of age, and fourteen in persons over sixty years of age.

There have been nine notifications under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, three of which were cases removed from other districts into the Workhouse. Of the other six cases, one was a case of Typhoid Fever on the Green, evidently contracted at the sea side, two were cases of Scarlet Fever, one at Rock Side and the other on the Town, and three were cases of Erysipelas, two at Dick Royd, and one at Crow Edge. Owing to isolation being carried out as well as could be done in the houses where the cases occurred there was no spread of any of the infectious diseases.

Water Supply.—The chief sanitary work of the year has been the completion of the water supply. The mains are now laid through all the district, with the exception of Carlecotes and Crow Edge, and they are being carried along the main road towards Penistone and partly through the Penistone district to supply the Workhouse and the Penistone Grammar School, which is situated in Thurlstone. Already about 240 houses have been connected with the mains, and the number is constantly increasing, as it is sure to do when the householders recognise the benefit of having good wholesome water in their houses without the trouble of carrying it from the wells as they formerly had to do, and when they understand that by using the town's water they avoid all danger of contracting those diseases brought about by drinking polluted water, to which they were liable when using the water obtained from the public wells.

Drainage.—No more drains have been put down during the year, but an engineer was employed jointly with the Penistone Board to report upon the feasability of having a joint scheme for the two districts. The report was unfavourable to joint action, both on account of the cost and also on account of the distance the sewage would have to be brought to a common out fall suitable for the two districts. The Engineer also reported that the Thurlstone sewage could be better dealt with by having two or three outfalls, than by conveying it all on to one piece of land, which is difficult to do owing to the scattered nature of the houses in the district. The Board, I understand, are now trying to obtain the land recommended by the engineer so as to comply with instructions from the County Council to purify the sewage before it goes into the river Don.

Infectious Hospital.—Nothing has been done towards building a hospital for the isolation of infectious cases, but jointly with the Penistone Local Board a piece of land has been obtained suitable for the erection of an infectious hospital, and which could quickly be utilized by the erection of temporary sheds or tents in the case of an epidemic occurring.

Nuisances.—There have been forty-one nuisances reported during 1893, all of which have been abated.

House Drainage.—There have only been five sink pipes disconnected during the year, and as there are a great number of cases in the district, which I have mentioned in my previous reports, where the sink pipe runs direct into the drain untrapped, this work wants better attending to.

Privies and Middens.—There have been five new covered privy middens erected during the year. There are still many uncovered middens in the district that have not yet been altered, and many others which, although covered, are so badly constructed that they want re-building.

Lodging House.—The common lodging house at Bridge End has been enlarged according to the plans passed by the Local Board, and it is now in a much better condition than it has been for many years.

In November last, at the request of the Board, I inspected Hazlehead Hall, the Railway Tavern (Hazlehead), and other property in the neighbourhood. I found several sanitary defects, both in the drainage and privies, all of which I pointed out to the Inspector of Nuisances, and of which I sent in a report to the Board. These defects have not yet been attended to.

I also inspected Crow Edge, where I found the following insanitary arrangements: At the Stone Row some sink pipes want attending to, and there is no ventilation to the drain. At the cottages next the Prince of Wales Inn the sink pipe runs straight into the drain, and is untrapped. The drain is an old stone one, and the sewage stands on the surface. A sanitary pipe drain should be put in and the old drain taken away. The drainage at the Prince of Wales Inn is bad. The privies to the property are not fit for use; new ones want building.

The drains to the houses which adjoin Messrs. Senior & Son's public house are in a bad state, and the privies want repairing. The sewage also stands on the surface in a garden at the back of the houses; a cesspool ought to be made for it. At Pogson's property the drains are bad and the privy wants re-building. At the Red Brick Row the sink pipe to the first house at the back runs

straight into the drain; it requires cutting off and putting over a trapped gully. In the second house the sink pipe runs into the cellar and is cut off over a trapped gully. The occupants complain of the smell; this wants altering. At the last house the sink pipe is not properly trapped.

At Carlecotes the drain at the back of the house occupied by Mr. Charles Kay's son wants attending to.

At Dunford Bridge an old midden has been removed from one of the houses belonging to Mr. Stanhope, but the ground has not been filled up, consequently offensive water stands on the surface at the back of the house. A new sanitary pipe drain is required at the houses, one of which is occupied by John Farrow. A new privy wants building for the houses belonging to the Railway Co., which are occupied by Crossley and Kenworthy. At the Stanhope Arms the privies are badly constructed, the ash pit floor is below the surface of the ground, the ash pit is uncovered, and the rain water from the privy roof runs into it. This wants altering.

The other parts of the district are almost in the same condition as described in my last report, and there are many sanitary defects to be remedied.

I should like to point out to the Board the great inconvenience in dealing with nuisances that the Inspector of Nuisances and myself experience from the want of a proper set of Bye-Laws, and I would again urge upon the Board the necessity of adopting the Model Bye-Laws with suitable modifications for the district, which would be of great assistance in removing many of the existing bad sanitary arrangements.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR C. J. WILSON, L.R.C.P., Ed.; M.R.C.S., Eng.